

**Pebble Project
Technical Working Groups
Operating Protocols and Guidelines**

August 29, 2007

1.0 TWG PURPOSE

To facilitate coordinated agency review, comment, issue clarification, and resolution regarding important environmental and project design studies for NEPA and subsequent project permitting.

2.0 TWG OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 IDENTIFY INFORMATION NEEDS.**
- 2.2 REVIEW ONGOING AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR APPLICABILITY, TECHNICAL MERIT AND ADEQUACY,**
- 2.3 RECOMMEND ADDITIONAL STUDIES AND/OR MODIFICATIONS TO ONGOING STUDIES IF NECESSARY.**
- 2.4 IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS SPECIFIC ISSUES.**
- 2.5 SEEK ISSUE CLARIFICATION AND RESOLUTION.**
- 2.6 SUMMARIZE DISCUSSIONS.**

3.0 TWG OPERATING PROTOCOLS

3.1 MEMBER SELECTION

- 3.1.1 Federal and state agencies, and NDM to identify their members with appropriate expertise. Additional agency or NDM technical personnel may attend meetings.**
- 3.1.2 Members will endeavor to devote adequate time to the TWG.**
- 3.1.3 TWG group size to remain relatively small to function effectively (preferably 5-6 members; however, specific topics may require larger groups).**
- 3.1.4 Non-member presence will be accommodated with opportunity to speak at the end of each meeting.**

3.2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.2.1 Each TWG will identify a leader and an alternate from its agency members to:

3.2.1.1 Notify TWG members of upcoming meetings.

3.2.1.2 Ensure copies of previous meeting notes are available for members.

3.2.1.3 Ensure meeting room is available.

3.2.1.4 Solicit and distribute topics for discussion for each meeting/agenda.

3.2.1.5 The TWG leader will be the contact person for public input and will distribute public input to the group.

3.3 MEETING FREQUENCY

3.3.1 Recommended minimum of quarterly meetings.

3.3.2 Frequency and schedule set by the TWG.

3.4 DOCUMENTATION

3.4.1.1 A note taker will be assigned for each meeting.

3.4.1.2 Notes marked as "Draft" will be reviewed by TWG members for approval before wider distribution.

3.4.1.3 After approval, distribution of the Final Notes may include other agency and /or NDM staff.

3.4.1.4 DNR will post TWG information on the DNR Large Mine Permitting / Pebble Project web site [<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/largemine/pebble/index.htm>]. Information will include TWG descriptions, the leaders' names and e-mail addresses, a list of the agencies involved, and approved minutes from the TWG meetings. Discussion points related to public input will be included in the meeting minutes and made available to the public through this web site.

3.5 ISSUE RESOLUTION

3.5.1 Test of reasonableness is encouraged as a basis for issue resolution

3.5.1.1 Is it logical, does it make sense?

3.5.1.2 Are there precedents that are relevant to this project?

3.5.1.3 What does the scientific information say on this topic?

3.5.1.4 What are the policies and guidelines?

3.5.2 If group discussion of an issue does not lead to resolution, the different perspectives and the process followed will be summarized in the TWG meeting notes.

3.6 TWG COORDINATION AND PROGRESS MONITORING

3.6.1 Agency and NDM management leads will review meeting notes and monitor progress.

